

## References:

- Benson, C. W. 1960. The birds of the Comoro Islands: results of the British Ornithologists' Union Centenary expedition 1958. *Ibis*, 103B: 5-106.
- Bent, A. C. 1940. Life histories of North American Cuckoos, Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds and their allies. *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.*, 176: 254-271.
- Brooke, R. K. In press. Taxonomic and distributional notes on *Apus acuticauda*. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*
- Collins, C. T. 1968. The comparative biology of two species of swifts in Trinidad, West Indies. *Bull. Florida State Mus.* 11: 5: 257-320.
- De Roo, A. 1966. Age characteristics in adult and subadult swifts *Apus a. apus* (L.) based on interrupted and delayed wing-moult. *Gerfaut* 56: 113-134.
- Eisenmann, E. and Lehmann, F. C. 1962. A new species of swift of the genus *Cypseloides* from Colombia. *Am. Mus. Novit.*, 2117: 1-16.
- Johnston, D. W. 1958. Sex and age characters and salivary glands of the Chimney Swift. *Condor* 60: 73-84.
- Lack, D. 1956. A review of the genera and nesting habits of swifts. *Auk*, 73: 1: 1-32.
- Mackworth-Praed, C. W. and Grant, C. H. B. 1952. *Birds of eastern and north-eastern Africa*, I. Longmans, Green & Co., London.
- Peters, J. L. 1940. *Check-list of the birds of the world*. IV. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass.
- Vincent, J. 1934. The birds of northern Portuguese East Africa. Comprising a list of, and observations on, the collections made during the British Museum Expedition of 1931-32. V. *Ibis*, 13: IV: 4: 757-799.

## An undescribed subspecies of Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava* from Colombia

by *Kenneth C. Parkes*

Received 14th January, 1969

The Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava* (Vieillot) has the largest breeding range of any member of the Thraupinae, from south-western United States to Argentina. In Colombia it has been reported only from the western Andes and adjacent Cauca Valley (*desidiosa* Bangs and Noble), the interior of Nariño in the south-westernmost corner of the country (*lutea* [Lesson]), and the Santa Marta Mountains of the north-eastern corner of the country (*faceta* Bangs). The species has not previously been reported from anywhere in the eastern Andes of Colombia.

In 1916, the late M. A. Carriker, Jr., collected a series of six Hepatic Tanagers at El Cauca, Magdalena, on the western slope of the Eastern Andes. Carriker (1955:55) described this locality as "a finca [= farm] . . . on the trail from Loma Corredor to Ocaña," and Meyer de Schauensee (1948: 292) gives its altitude as 900 metres. When W. E. Clyde Todd, then Curator of Birds (and now Curator Emeritus) at Carnegie Museum catalogued these specimens, he assigned them to *faceta*, the subspecies of the Santa Marta Mountains and the coastal ranges of Venezuela. Later, however, he wrote on his file card for *faceta*: "On re-examination I find that the three males from El Cauca . . . show a red of a different shade from either *faceta* or *desidiosa*, and probably represent still another form." He did not pursue the matter further, however, and this range extension for the species was never published. Zimmer's monograph (1929) of the species is flawed by the author's failure to assemble all possible material; in the case of *faceta*, described from the Santa Marta Mountains of Colombia, he based his remarks entirely upon three males and one female from Venezuela. Had he borrowed the ample Carnegie Museum series, he probably would have noted the characters of the Magdalena birds, and would certainly have added the locality to his map. In any

case, in view of Mr. Todd's early recognition that these specimens probably represented a new race, it is most appropriate to call it:

*Piranga flava toddi*, subsp. nov.

*Type*: Carnegie Museum no. 54608, male just completing moult into definitive basic plumage, collected at El Cauca, Magdalena ["Santander", error, on label], Colombia (W. slope of E. Andes, 900 metres), 29th July, 1916, by M. A. Carriker, Jr. (collector's no. 17740).

*Characters*: Of the many subspecies, *toddi* requires comparison only with *P. f. faceta*, its nearest neighbour, from which it does not differ in size. Definitively plumaged (red; see discussion below) males differ from *faceta* in being less scarlet; the underparts range from near Begonia Rose of Ridgway (1912) on the abdomen, darkening anteriorly to near Spectrum Red, whereas in the same areas *faceta* ranges from near Peach Red to dark Scarlet Red. I am unable to match the dorsum to Ridgway colours, but *toddi* is again of a more bluish, less scarlet red. The flanks of *toddi* have more of a grey wash, and the lores are blacker than in *faceta*. The one adult female of *toddi* differs from a good series of *faceta* in being deeper yellow below, almost orange on the throat, with the mid-ventral area contrasting sharply with the very dark flanks as in the Pacific form *desidiosa* (which is altogether darker and duller in both sexes). Dorsally, the female *toddi* is of a richer, yellower green, much deeper yellow on lores and bend of wing than *faceta*, becoming almost orange on the forehead. Two presumed first-year females of *toddi* (colours muted, abdomen whitish) differ similarly from *faceta* of the same age-class.

*Range*: Known only from the type locality, which is approximately 135 miles south of the southernmost similar elevation in the Santa Marta Mountains.

*Specimens examined*: The six *toddi* were directly compared with 52 specimens of *faceta* (30 from Santa Marta, 22 from Venezuela). Specimens of all other races admitted by Zimmer (1929) were examined, with the exception of *saira* of south-eastern Brazil, the closely similar *macconnelli* of Guyana and adjacent Brazilian savannas, and *haemalea*, a very dark race of the highlands of Guyana. None of these resembles the *faceta-toddi* group.

*Remarks on plumages*: The three male specimens are all completing the moult into the definitive red plumage; the specimen selected as the holotype is the farthest advanced. Study of our large series of the adjacent subspecies *faceta* indicates that (all?) males do not attain their definitive red plumage until their third prebasic moult. They can and do breed in the first basic plumage, which is indistinguishable from the female. This is illustrated by CM 37696, Cincinnati, Santa Marta, 8th June, 1911, which, although in female-like plumage, was marked by Carriker as "♂ juv. (*breeding*)" [Carriker, like many older collectors, used "juv." to indicate any young bird, rather than restricting the term to birds wearing juvenal plumage, as is now the custom]. At the next prebasic moult (example CM 42266, Minca, Santa Marta, 18th June, 1913), the green-edged remiges are replaced by red-edged ones, but the incoming ventral plumage may be red mixed with yellowish, or peach-coloured feathers. At this moult some of the incoming dorsal feathers may be quite greenish (example CM 104500, Pie del Cerro, Aragua, Venezuela, 18th May, 1929). At the third prebasic moult, the definitive red plumage is assumed. This is the stage of the three male specimens of *toddi*. The brief discussion by Allen (1891) indicates that *P. f. saira* in Mato Grosso, Brazil, has a similar plumage sequence.

References:

- Allen, J. A. 1891. On a collection of birds from Chapada, Matto Grosso, Brazil, made by Mr. Herbert H. Smith. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 3: 337-380.
- Carriker, M. A., Jr. 1955. Notes on the occurrence and distribution of certain species of Colombian birds. *Novedades Colombianas*, 1: 48-64.
- Meyer de Schauensee, R. 1948. The birds of the Republic of Colombia. Part I. *Caldasia*, 5: 251-379.
- Ridgway, R. 1912. *Color standards and color nomenclature*. Privately printed, Washington.
- Zimmer, J. T. 1929. A study of the Tooth-billed Red Tanager, *Piranga flava*. *Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Zool. Ser.*, 17: 169-219.

Two new subspecies of the Red-crowned Ant Tanager  
*Habia rubica* from Venezuela,  
with remarks on Colombian populations

by Kenneth C. Parkes

Received 15th February, 1969

Within the highly polytypic species *Habia rubica* (Vieillot), the current literature ascribes the subspecies *H. r. rubra* to Trinidad and the mountains of adjacent Venezuela in the states of Sucre and Monagas. The species has never been reported from Venezuela south of the Orinoco. Carnegie Museum possesses a series of eight specimens of the Red-crowned Ant Tanager taken by the late M. A. Carriker, Jr., at the Río Yuruán, eastern Bolívar, Venezuela. This represents a distinct range extension for the species, which is unknown in the Guianas or in Brazil north of the Amazon. The long-overlooked specimens of the Blue-backed Tanager (*Cyanicterus cyanicterus*), a species typical of the Guianas, from this same Río Yuruán locality (Parkes, in press) suggest that *Habia rubica* may well extend at least to Guyana.

Comparison of this series with other material in Carnegie Museum reveals, as might be expected, that the birds from Bolívar represent an undescribed subspecies. Furthermore, the ascription of the birds of north-eastern Venezuela to *rubra* of Trinidad is incorrect. There are thus two overlooked subspecies of *Habia rubica* in Venezuela. That of the north-eastern mountains may be called:

*Habia rubica crissalis*, subsp. nov.

*Type*: Carnegie Museum no. 106889, adult female, collected at Mirasol (3,000 feet), about 15 km. S. of Cumanacoa, Sucre, Venezuela, 23rd December, 1929, by H. J. Clement (collector's no. 379).

*Characters*: Females nearest *H. r. rubra* of Trinidad, but underparts richer and warmer in colour, especially noticeable on the crissum, which is bright orange-brown rather than dull orange-buff. Abdomen buff rather than whitish as in *rubra*, but paler than in the richly coloured females of *coccinea*, the race found in the Mérida region of western Venezuela. In *coccinea* the underparts are almost uniform rather than distinctly paler on the abdomen than on the breast as in *rubra* and *crissalis*. Adult males have the throat deeper red than *rubra*, resembling *coccinea* in this respect, but have the posterior underparts paler and pinker than *coccinea*, brighter and more scarlet than *rubra*. The abdomen colour is thus intermediate between *coccinea* and *rubra*, but the bright *coccinea*-like throat contrasts more sharply with the posterior underparts than in either of the other two races. Dorsally, males match *coccinea* quite closely. This race thus to some extent represents an intermediate